



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234 Newsletter

The Electrical Worker's Union for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties

January 2021

Local 234 Officers:



Lamont Adams
**Business Manager/
Financial Secretary**

Mike Ihnot
President

Al Randall
Vice President

Nick Prelgovisk
Treasurer

Stephen Slovacek
Recording Secretary

John Agra
Andy Gattis
Trudi Teller
Ryan Porter
Executive Board

Business Manager's Report by Lamont Adams

Sisters and Brothers,

On the Inside out-of-work list we have 7 on Book 1, 84 on Book 2, 4 on Book 3, and 9 on Book 4. There is 1 on Book 1 for Sound & Comm, 1 on Book 2, 0 on Book 3, and 0 on book 4. There is 1 on CW Book 1 and 3 on CW Book 2. There is 1 Inside apprentice on the out-of-work list.

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe. 2020 was a tough year for many and I know I speak for many of you when I say I am glad it is behind us. But, we face

many challenges in the new year as well. Now that two vaccines have been approved for use, there is hope. But we must continue to be vigilant if we want to protect ourselves and loved ones from COVID-19.

The Inside Health & Welfare Plan is currently doing well. The current number of months in reserves is 14.5. This is an increase from September when the reserves were at 9.2 months. According to the experts a healthy plan is 10–12 months of reserves. The Board of Trustees are working on a plan to decrease the individual out of pocket cost, currently \$15,000, to be more inline with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rate structure.

The Health & Welfare Board of Trustees is also pleased to announce a new Medicare Advantage program through Anthem Blue Cross that will replace the current self-funded program effective March 1, 2021. Under the new Anthem Medicare Advantage program, all medical coverage is provided through Anthem under a fully insured arrangement with no deductible and \$0 copays for Medicare covered services. This new program will offer more services at no cost to our Retirees. There will be a packet of information detailing the benefits and features of the new medical plan sent out this month. There is also a Webinar scheduled for January 23, 2021 from 9am–11am regarding the new medical plan, benefits and features, and any other questions you may

have about this transition. I highly encourage those effected by these changes to attend this meeting.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic we had to cancel many of our General Body meetings in 2020. I wanted our annual holiday drawing, held at our December meeting, for \$234 to continue. So all members in good standing were put into a drawing for the prize. Congratulations to Tom Thomas, Inside Journeyman, for being the winner for 2020. I also want to congratulate Cody Mahler and Rigoberto Garcia for winning the IBEW 234 photo contest. They each won \$234.

Due to the increasing amount of positive COVID-19 cases the Union Hall office is once again closed to the public. Services are still available for members by telephone. Our online access site is also available for dues payments and monthly re-sign. Visit the website at: www.ibew234.org

Friday, January 1, 2021 is New Year's Day and a Holiday for the Inside, S&C, and CECWs. Monday, January 18, 2021 is Martin Luther King Jr Day and a Holiday for the Inside, S&C, and CECWs.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our efforts to help Food Bank for Monterey County. Remember their efforts continue after the Holidays.

Happy New Year to you and your families. May this new year bring you prosperity, good health, and much happiness. I hope you take the time to reflect on last year's challenges, learn from them and make a plan for 2021.

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence"

Martin Luther King Jr



Prevention With Little Steps by Rasha Aniaq



First, I wanted to wish all of you happy holidays and a great winter. I hope that you all have spent this time reconnecting with what makes you happy and reinvention of your daily life.

With the extending quarantine and restrictions, safety and health have been the spotlight of 2020. Although feelings of disconnection and despair have been felt globally, the end of 2020 brings hope with the new FDA-**Emergency use authorized** COVID-19 vaccine.

The distribution of the vaccine which started this mid-December has been divided into regions based on need. Santa Cruz County, Monterey County, and Bay Area fall into the Region II distribution group. At this time, there are 80,497 vaccines available yet limited to high-risk individuals. However, more are in production and will be available to the general public.

Cell: 831-731-0460
rasha@ibew234.org

Here are some tips to keep your immune system up to par:

1. Continue to practice sanitizing before and after entering public areas
2. Continue wearing a mask in public areas and practice social distancing
3. Add ginger & garlic to your meals and cinnamon to your coffee
4. Stay warm as any drop in temperature can decrease the functionality of the immune system
5. Eat whole foods & refrain from processed foods as much possible. Fueling your body with high quality meals can help keep your immune system at its optimal level.

For more information, please visit the California Public Health Website:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>

Go Green with Our e-Edition!

Sign up today to receive the newsletter in your email. Help reduce production costs and be "green" at the same time. Our homepage is located at www.ibew234.org.

If you would like to move from a paper newsletter to a digital one, please call the Local at 831-633-2311 and we would be happy to change it for you.

Safety Corner

With the rainy / stormy season coming up, please remember to stay safe:

Never operate electrical equipment in wet locations. Water greatly increases the risk of electrocution especially if the equipment has damaged insulation.

The **risks** are greatest in harsh **conditions**, for example: outdoors or in **wet** surroundings – **equipment** may become **wet** and may be at greater **risk** of damage. In cramped spaces with earthed metalwork, such as inside a tank or bin – it may be difficult to avoid **electrical** shock if an **electrical** fault develops.

According to OSHA, damp or wet locations can be found both outdoors and indoors, and include areas that are unprotected from weather and/or subject to water, liquids or moderate amounts of moisture.

Make sure to always inspect : inspections help to identify and record hazards for corrective action. Regular workplace inspections are an important part of electrical safety programs

Christopher Burditt Memorial Scholarship

January 2021

IBEW Local 234, in partnership with the Burditt Family, is offering **three (3) \$1,000** scholarships to high school graduates – one each in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito County, who will graduate during the current school year and who meet all qualifying criteria.

To apply, a student must have at least one present or past union member, **of any affiliation**, in his or her immediate family and type an essay of approximately **500 words** on **one** of the following topics:

- What is the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and what has it done to enhance organized labor?
- Why is the organized labor movement important in the United States today?
- How has the union movement played a key role in the life and well-being of my family member who **is or was** in a union?

Essays must be typed and mailed with a completed Application Form to:

Christopher Burditt Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest
10300 Merritt Street
Castroville, CA 95012

Entries must be **received by Friday, March 19, 2021**. IBEW Local 234 will judge essays for content, clarity, and originality. Proof that application requirements are fulfilled, including graduation, will be required, as will proof that the winner enrolls in a university, college, junior college, or other institution of higher learning in the summer or fall of **2021**. No essays will be returned. IBEW Local 234 is not responsible for any entries that are not received or are damaged before being received.

The announcement and application form are available for download on our website **www.ibew234.org**. Please share with any interested students.

Paid Sick Leave if Working in Local 234

Everyone working in Local 234 under the Inside Agreement (including CECWs) should be receiving the state mandated paid sick leave. Contact the Hall if you are not so that we can help resolve the issue. The hours **EARNED**, **YTD USED**, and **AVAILABLE** should appear on your paycheck stub each week.

For the Inside Agreement, paid sick leave is NOT included as language in the Agreement. As such, the Healthy Workplaces/Healthy Families Act of 2014 Paid Sick Leave applies to everyone working under the Inside Agreement (Inside and CE/CW). Paid sick leave does not affect S&C at this time since they had a current agreement in place when the law was implemented.

Beginning **July 1, 2015**, members accrue 1 hour for every 30 hours worked to be paid at the hourly wage rate (benefits not included). Employers have to track the paid sick leave hours, available and used, on your pay stub. Accrued paid sick leave can carry over to the following year. Employees may begin using the paid sick leave on or after the 90th day of employment. Paid sick leave is not paid out upon termination; unused or available hours are not required to be paid when you are laid off. The law permits employers to cap accrual of paid sick leave at 48 hours or six days per year. In addition, the law permits employers to limit use of accrued paid sick leave to 24 hours or three days per year. The law allows employees to take sick leave for their own health condition or the health condition of a family member, including preventative care (annual physical, vaccines). "Family member" is defined broadly and includes a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, and sibling. Employees may also take sick leave if they are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. If the employer does not choose to use the accrual method, there is also a lump sum method. With this method employers will provide each employee 24 hours of paid sick leave each year, at the beginning of the year. These hours do not roll over.

Note that if you request your paid sick leave, your hourly wage is all that will be paid to you. Presently paid sick leave does not include the payment of fringe benefits.

Tri-County Electrical JATC Training News

(831) 633-3063

2017 NEC Significant Changes Class and CPR / First Aid

Significant Changes to the 2017 NEC: January 19, 2021 5:30pm-8:30pm with instructor David Martinez

CPR/ First Aid: January 9, 2021 with instructor Merralinda Goddard

Part 1- Online Coursework to be completed by 1/8/2021: link to online course provided by the instructor via email.

Part 2- In-Person Practical to be held on Saturday 1/9/2021: available only to those who complete the online coursework. You will receive an appointment time to attend your hands-on practical. Mask are required but not provided.

Please contact Stacy (JATC) to sign up for the online course at (831) 741-9069 or stacy@tricityjetc.org Note that once you are signed up with a link to online course—the course is paid for. If you do not complete the course by the deadline on 1/8/2021, you will be billed for the cost of the course.

Congratulations on Completing Class

Significant Changes to the 2017 NEC

12/15/2020:

Jim Shumaker, Will Nunes, Jonathan Stanley, Lloyd Eads, Andy Hartmann, Juan Vargas, Manuel Garcia, Brian Stanley, Jorge Mendoza, Stevan Gamez, Justin Anderson, Randy Evans, and Kyle Tuck

Objects of the IBEW

To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry in the United States and Canada, including all those in public utilities and electrical manufacturing, into local unions,

To promote reasonable methods of work,

To cultivate feelings of friendship among those of our industry,

To settle all disputes between employers and employees by arbitration (if possible.)

To assist each other in sickness or distress,

To secure employment,

To reduce the hours of daily labor,

To secure adequate pay for our work,

To seek a higher and higher standard of living,

To seek security for the individual,

And by legal and proper means to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship.

Source: IBEW Constitution and Rules for Local Unions and Councils Under Its Jurisdiction

COVID

FAQ's on Coronavirus:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?utm_source=leaderupdate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=04-09-20

AFL-CIO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Page The AFL-CIO has compiled a **Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic resource page** with valuable information and updates. In addition, please check out **your union's website** as they may have additional information and resources.

Local 234 Health & Welfare Link

<https://www.ourbenefitoffice.com/IBEW234/Benefits/HealthcareDocuments.aspx>

Protecting Your Mental Health and Grief Counseling During COVID-19

The **Peer-Run Warm Line (1-855-845-7415)** is a non-emergency resource for anyone in California seeking emotional support. They provide assistance via phone and webchat on a nondiscriminatory basis to anyone in need.

<https://211montereycounty.org/>

State of California Updates <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

Free COVID-19 testing now underway on the Central Coast All tests are by appointment only.

To make an appointment, call 1-888-634-1123
or visit <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>.

United States Department of Labor This webpage provides information for workers and employers about the evolving coronavirus pandemic. The information includes links to interim guidance and other resources for preventing exposures to, and infection with, the novel coronavirus—officially named SARS-CoV-2, which causes the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

2020 Tax Statements

The Union Hall will not be mailing out the Statement of Dues and Assessments paid in 2020 in a mass mailing. We are happy to mail or e-mail your statement to you upon request.

Please feel free to contact Local 234 at :

(831) 633-2311

or via e-mail at: thehall@ibew234.org

If you would like to receive your statement.

Inside Orientation Class

A big thank you to: Noe Arana, Sergio Diaz, Angel Lopez-Magana, Jose de Jesus Renteria, Joseph Sakoda, David Salinas, James F Stanchfield for attending the Local Orientation Zoom meeting.

If you are interested in attending our next orientation—give us a call at the hall 831-633-2311

NEBF.com

The NEBF website allows members to log on and estimate your retirement benefits. You can easily generate your NEBF lifetime benefit estimate, including years of service. Go to **www.nebf.com/nebf** and click on "Online Benefits" to register. You can also update your address through the online benefit's portal and activate alerts to receive text and email notifications when new documents or important communications become available.

New Merchandise

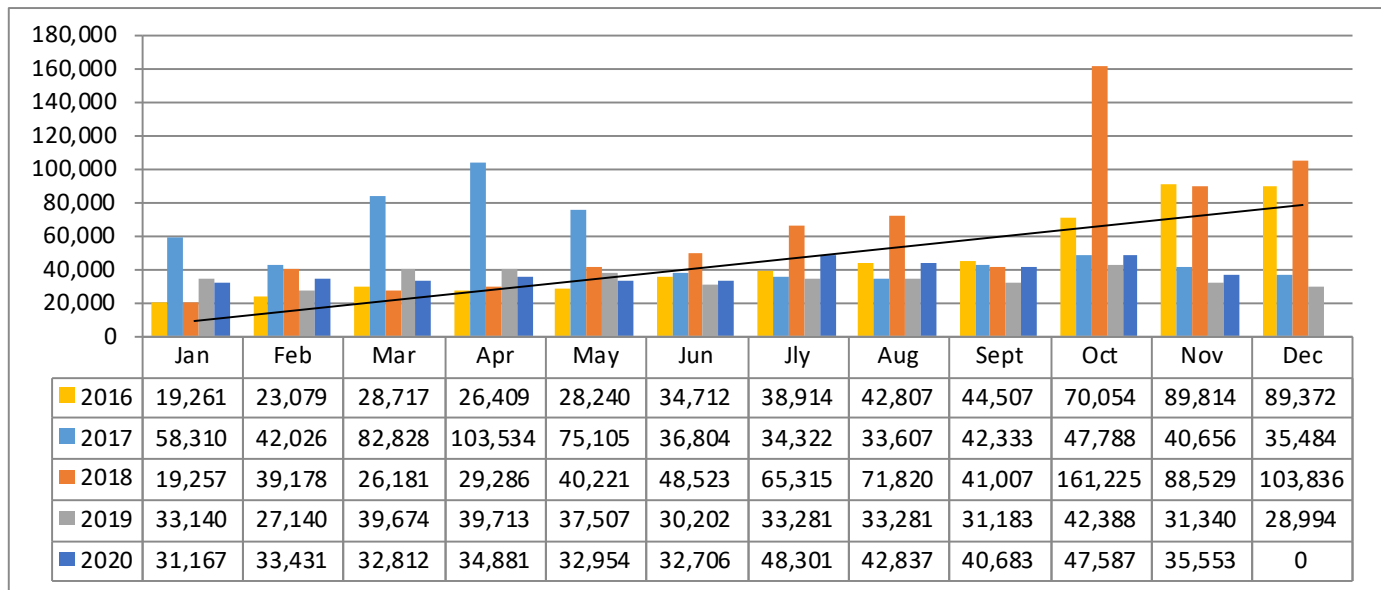
Curbside pick up is now available! Just call ahead to order and pay and then swing by to grab your new merchandise!

The Hall now is able to ship merchandise. Shipping costs vary from \$11.00 up to \$25.00. Feel free to contact the union hall office at 831-633-2311 to inquire about purchasing your merchandise over the phone.

CONGRATULATIONS Photo Award Winners:

The IBEW's 2020 Photo Contest Winners are: Cody Mahler and Rigoberto Garcia
CONGRATULATIONS!

Monthly Hours Report



Happy January Birthdays!

Lamont Adams
Joseph Antoni
Frank Baca
David Boggs
Rafael Castro Jr
Mark Clough
William Clough
Matthew Craddock
Ruth Dean
John Dion
Juliano DiSimone
Scott Gaffney
Manuel Garcia
Ralph Garcia
Cristian Gonzalez
Robert Greene
Kirt Hackett
Gregory Hague
Harold Haste

Darrell Hickey
Cory Hoffman
Valentin Ivanov
Jesus Jara
Artemio Juarez
Philip Karleen
Sean Kent
Michael Kulich
Jaime Lara
Jose Leon
Giovanni Lopez
Julian Macias
Ernest Magallan
Ronald Martinez
George Mellone
Gale Michalek
Jose Moncada
Keshana Moon
David Morales
Ernesto Morales

Bill Moua
Yeng Moua
Francisco Mundo Jr
Luis Ortiz
Roberto Paz-Murillo
Rosio Perez
Nicholas Prelgovisk
Reynold Ramirez
Orlando Ramirez
Manuel Ramos
Bryan Ruiz-Herrera
Dana Saccullo
Maxwell Schnittger
Delbert Slaughter
Jorge Suarez Jr
James Suniga Jr
Trudi Teller
Jaime Urzua
Michael Wolfe
Jim Zupkus



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

There was no General Membership meeting in December.

Voluntary PAC (Political Action Committee):

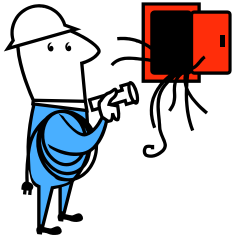
Apprentice Give-Away: Joel Berrueco
3rd Year won \$23.40

Give-Away Winners: N/A

Student of the month for November:
Joshua Haupt—4th Year

Student of the month for December:
Kevin Page—3rd Year

General membership meetings are the second Wednesday of each month. The next general membership meeting has been canceled:



January 2021

Quote of the Month

"JANUARY,
The first month of the
year,
A perfect time to start
all over again,
Changing energies
and deserting old
moods,
New beginnings, new
attitudes"

— Charmaine J Forde

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 HOLIDAY New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 CPR/First Aid
10	11	12	13 General Body Meeting	14	15	16
17	18 HOLIDAY Martin Luther King's Birthday	19 JATC Meeting @ 4:00 PM Significant Changes @5:30 PM	20	21	22	23
24 / 31	25	26	27 E-Board Meeting @ 6:00 PM	28	29	30
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234



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Job line

**Tri-County Electrical
JATC**
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info@tricountyjatc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

